United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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13 July 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Thorvald Stoltenberg tells Security Council that three parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina want settlement talks and have proposals to discuss; asks for support for humanitarian operations and reinforcement of UNPROFOR in safe areas.

+ Secretary-General reports that United Nations may soon be unable to meet day-to-day obligations because of precarious financial situation; unpaid assessments total $2.236 billion as of 31 May.

+ Secretary-General expresses condolences to families of four journalists killed in Mogadishu; instructs UNOSOM II to apprehend perpetrators and to exercise vigilance.

+ Haitian political dialogue to begin at Headquarters tomorrow as follow-up to 3 July Agreement between President Aristide and Lieutenant-General Cedras; will seek political truce for peaceful transition of power.

+ Draft agreement on military questions, including possibility of cease-fire, reached at Geneva negotiations to end Liberian civil war; plenary takes up political issues, including repatriation of refugees and humanitarian affairs.

+ Portugal, Russian Federation and United States, in letter to Secretary-General, call for end to fighting in Angola and urge UNITA to accept peace based on 1991 Bicesse Accords and Security Council resolutions.

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The three parties to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina favour talks for a durable settlement and have come up with proposals for discussion, Thorvald Stoltenberg, Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, said today at informal Security Council consultations. He

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warned that without talks, "the fighting would continue and the facts would be created on the ground". He later told correspondents that the three parties might meet next week in Geneva.

Mr. Stoltenberg said a prolonged war would mean great suffering for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The present situation could not last much longer; winter was approaching and humanitarian needs could not be met. The United Nations lacked resources, fighting made it difficult to plan humanitarian operations, and those operations were being deliberately obstructed on all sides. "Human suffering seems to be used as a tool in the war", he remarked.

The continuation of the war would promote hatred and reduce the chances of a negotiated peace in the future, Mr. Stoltenberg told the Council. That did not mean that there should be peace at any price, but that it was time for negotiations to begin. Meanwhile, Council members should support the appeal to be launched by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on 16 July for additional resources. Furthermore, the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) should be reinforced in the safe areas established by resolution 824 (1993) to help stabilize the situation on the ground, he said.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has warned that the financial situation of the United Nations is becoming more and more precarious, and that it is highly probable that the Organization will not be able to meet its day-to-day obligations in the coming months. In an addendum to his financial report of 24 June, he pointed out that unpaid regular budget and peace-keeping assessments totaled $2.236 billion as of 31 May. Almost two thirds of that amount was owed by permanent members of the Security Council. Ten Member States had paid their peace-keeping assessments in full, and only 8 of those had also paid their regular budget assessments in full.

The Secretary-General said that overall unpaid contributions to the regular budget were likely to be higher at the end of the year than they had been at the beginning as certain Member States had indicated that they would have difficulty in meeting their obligations this year. The regular budget would need short-term assistance from other funds several times this year, but those funds would be less able to provide assistance than before. The cash-flow situation regarding peace-keeping operations was one of the most serious problems confronting the United Nations, and the General Assembly had responded by approving budgets for shorter periods and assessing Member States more often, he went on to say.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today instructed the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) to apprehend the killers of four journalists in Mogadishu, and to exercise vigilance in carrying out its tasks,

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according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General expressed his condolences to the families of the four, saying that as a former journalist he had great sympathy for their plight.

The journalists were killed yesterday while approaching a United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA) command-and-control centre which had been attacked by UNOSOM II forces earlier in the day. They had been escorted to the area -- against UNOSOM II advice -- by USC/SNA militia men, and had been surrounded by a mob from the same faction.

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Representatives of the parties in the Haitian Parliament will begin a political dialogue at Headquarters tomorrow following the Agreement concluded on 3 July by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Lieutenant-General Raoul Cedras, Commander-in-Chief of the Haitian Armed Forces. Representatives of the Presidential Commission will also participate in the dialogue, according to a spokesman for Dante Caputo, the Special Envoy for Haiti of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS).

The aims of the dialogue will include: a political truce and a social pact for a peaceful transition of power in Haiti; an agreement on procedures enabling the Haitian Parliament to resume its normal functioning and to confirm the Prime Minister as soon as possible; and an agreement permitting the adoption of laws necessary for the transition.

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A draft agreement on military questions has been reached at the Geneva negotiations to end the civil war in Liberia, a United Nations spokesman said today. The week-long negotiations, which began on Saturday, are aimed at creating an atmosphere of trust for implementation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Peace Plan and the 1992 Yamoussoukro IV Accord, which called for a cease-fire, disarmament and democratic elections.

The draft, which dealt with the possibility of a cease-fire, was agreed on by working groups representing the Interim Government of National Unity of Liberia; the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL); the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL); and the United Liberation Movement for Democracy of Liberia (ULIMO). It was transmitted yesterday evening to the plenary, which then took up political issues, including the repatriation of refugees and humanitarian affairs.

The Co-Chairmen of the negotiations, Trevor Gordon-Somers, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Liberia; Canaan Banana, Eminent Person of the Organization of African Unity (OAU); and Abass Bundu, Executive Secretary of ECOWAS, were meeting with the parties individually with a view to building bridges when necessary, according to the spokesman.

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Portugal, the Russian Federation and the United States have called for an immediate end to the fighting in Angola and urged the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to return to the peace settlement based on the 1991 Bicesse Accords and relevant Security Council resolutions. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 10 July, the three countries said the Angolan Government had a legitimate right to self-defence, given UNITA'S continued military attacks, but stressed the need for restraint because of increasing human suffering and destruction in the country.

Representatives of the three countries -- official observers for the implementation of the Bicesse Accords -- had met in Moscow on 8 July to discuss measures to resolve the Angolan crisis in the light of forthcoming Security Council meetings, according to the letter. They had discussed an arms embargo aimed at UNITA, measures to obtain UNITA's compliance with the Accords and with Council resolution 804 (1993) on the release of foreign hostages, and means to ensure the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid. They had also discussed the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II), and the possibility of bringing the Mission back to full strength. The letter went on to say that the need for those or other measures would depend on the actions of UNITA's leadership.

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DH/1434
14 July 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General recommends that UNAVEM II mandate be extended for three months to 15 October to allow United Nations to pursue peace agreement for Angola; estimates cost at $6.35 million; humanitarian flights to resume tomorrow.

+ Secretary-General recommends that Security Council sanctions against Haiti be suspended when Prime Minister assumes office; says country will be on path to democracy by 30 October, when President Aristide returns.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping says Somalia cannot be allowed to slide back to anarchy; says there is no alternative to disarmament.

+ Norway, on behalf of Nordic countries, tell Economic and Social Council that success is long overdue in Uruguay Round of GATT talks.

+ Secretary-General informs Greece and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia that Cyrus Vance will assume role of mediator on 1 August.

+ Decolonization Committee hears calls for United Nations intervention to resolve human rights crisis in East Timor; petitioners say Organization should oversee referendum in Territory.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) for three months to 15 October to allow the United Nations to vigorously pursue a peace agreement. In a report on UNAVEM II dated 12 July, he said he would present proposals to the Council to strengthen the Mission's verification capabilities as soon as a timetable for implementation of a peace agreement had been established. He estimated that UNAVEM II's extension would cost a total of $6.35 million.

The report stressed that it would be "unthinkable" for the the United Nations to abandon Angola given the deteriorating political and military

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situation there. UNAVEM II was an essential factor in efforts to advance the peace process and to provide humanitarian relief. The Mission also helped to prevent the escalation of the conflict in the country.

The Secretary-General said that his Special Representative would continue to act as an intermediary between the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), but that a successful peace agreement would ultimately depend on the Angolans themselves.

In a related development, a United Nations spokesman today said humanitarian flights would resume in Angola tomorrow as the result of an agreement between UNAVEM II, President Dos Santos and UNITA's Dr. Jonas Savimbi.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the sanctions imposed against Haiti by Security Council resolution 841 (1993) be suspended as soon as a Prime Minister has been ratified by the Haitian Parliament and has assumed office. He made that recommendation in a report on democracy and human rights in Haiti, dated 12 July. The suspension of sanctions had been envisaged in the Agreement concluded by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Lieutenant-General Raoul Cedras, Commander-in-Chief of the Haitian Armed Forces, on Governers Island on 3 July.

The Secretary-General said the suspension should be terminated if the parties or the authorities in Haiti failed to comply in good faith with the Agreement. He would report to the Council as soon as President Aristide had returned to Haiti with a view to the indefinite lifting of the sanctions. Verification of the Agreement would be entrusted to the Special Envoy for Haiti, Dante Caputo.

On the subject of human rights, the Secretary-General said the arrangements agreed to by the constitutional Government of Haiti and the de facto authorities concerning the International Civilian Mission to Haiti should remain in effect. He stressed that the provisions of the Agreement would require detailed follow-up, and expressed confidence that Haiti would be on the path to a stable democratic future by 30 October, the date set for President Aristide's return. He went on to ask the international community to provide technical and financial help for the reconstruction of the country's economy and institutions.

* * *

Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Kofi Annan has said Somalia cannot be allowed to slide back to the anarchy of the recent past. He told correspondents today that it was essential that the criminal elements in the country be rooted out, noting that in recent weeks they had killed some 35 peace-keepers, as well as journalists and Somalis working with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II).

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Mr. Annan said there was no alternative but to rid Mogadishu of all weaponry. Without disarmament, even a cessation of hostilities could not provide the lasting confidence needed for the rebuilding of Somalia.

Meanwhile, Special Representative Jonathan Howe has said that UNOSOM II will "silence those inciting violence against us" and pursue those responsible for the attack on Pakistani peace-keepers on 5 June and the murder of 4 journalists on Monday. He said yesterday that Southern Mogadishu would remain dangerous as long as General Mohamed Farah Aidid was not in custody.

* * *

Norway has told the Economic Committee of the Economic and Social Council that a successful conclusion to the seven-year-old negotiations of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) is long overdue. The Committee was beginning its discussion of development and international economic cooperation in Geneva yesterday.

Speaking on behalf of the Nordic countries, Norway said the failure to conclude the Uruguay Round might indicate that narrow, short-sighted national interests were replacing the pursuit of global welfare. Other countries also called for an early GATT agreement and for an international trade package that would fully address developing countries' needs.

Some speakers noted that many developing countries were struggling to sell products for which prices had fallen and which faced unfair international trade barriers. Meanwhile, those countries were carrying heavy debt burdens and trying to establish democratic systems of government and market economies. The situation was exacerbated by the world-wide recession, they said.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has written to the Prime Minister of Greece and the President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to say that Cyrus Vance has accepted his request to serve as a mediator between the two countries, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said Mr. Vance, the former Co-Chairman of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, would assume the role on 1 August.

The Secretary-General recalled that Security Council resolution 845 (1993) urged the two parties to continue their efforts under his auspices to arrive at a speedy settlement of remaining issues between them. He expressed the hope that a settlement could be reached before the commencement of the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

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The Special Committee on decolonization has heard several calls for the United Nations to intervene directly to resolve the human rights crisis in East Timor. Petitioners before the Committee yesterday urged the

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international community to use economic, diplomatic and other means to force Indonesia to comply with United Nations resolutions on East Timor and with the principles of the United Nations Charter. They also called for the holding of a referendum in the Territory under the auspices of the Organization.

One petitioner, a Member of the Portuguese Parliament, said the crisis in East Timor should not be seen as a conflict between Portugal and Indonesia. Rather, it was a conflict between Indonesia and the international community and a rebellion against the Charter. Indonesia had earlier reiterated its opposition to the Committee's deliberations, saying that they constituted an unacceptable interference in its internal affairs.

In 1977, the General Assembly rejected an Indonesian claim that East Timor had been integrated into Indonesia, as the people of the territory had not freely exercised their right of self-determination. Portugal is the administering Power of East Timor.

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15 July 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNAVEM II's mandate for two months to 15 September; expresses concern about military and humanitarian situations in Angola; says it would consider arms embargo against UNITA unless peace agreement implemented.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, demands immediate end to hostilities in UNPAs in Croatia; urges Croatian Government not to reopen Maslenica bridge and Zemunik Airport without agreement between parties concerned in cooperation with UNPROFOR.

+ Secretary-General and Italian Foreign Minister discuss redeployment of Italian UNOSOM II forces outside of Mogadishu; Italy indicates overall support for Operation.

+ Executive Chairman of Special Commission on disarmament of Iraq discusses country's refusal to permit sealing of rocket sites with senior officials in Baghdad.

+ Commission of Experts on breaches of international humanitarian law in former Yugoslavia briefed on recent mission to Sarajevo; will report to Secretary-General in early September and complete work by end of December.

+ ICRC appeals to Bosnian Croat authorities to allow access to Muslim civilians detained in area of Mostar.

+ Azerbaijan appeals to Security Council to condemn Armenian aggression against it; says Armenia's use of force to acquire territory threatens peace in region.

+ Developing countries tell Fish Stocks Conference that new measures needed for surveillance and control of fishing fleets intruding on exclusive economic zones.

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The Security Council today decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) for two months until 15 September. The Council emphasized the importance of an effective United Nations presence in Angola in fostering the peace process and advancing implementation of the "Acordos de Paz". It took that action by adopting unanimously resolution 851 (1993).

The Council expressed grave concern at the deterioration of the political and military situation in Angola, and noted "with consternation" the deterioration of an already grave humanitarian situation. The Council said it was ready to consider acting promptly, on the recommendation of the Secretary-General, to expand UNAVEM II's presence in Angola in the event of significant progress in the peace process.

The Council reiterated its demands that the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) end military actions, accept the results of the 1992 elections and abide fully by the "Acordos de Paz". The Council said it was ready to consider imposing a mandatory arms embargo against UNITA, unless the Secretary-General had reported by 15 September that an effective cease-fire had been established, and that an agreement had been reached to implement the "Acordos de Paz" and relevant Council resolutions.

The Council also called on all Member States, United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations to respond swiftly to the Secretary-General's appeal regarding the emergency humanitarian assistance plan for Angola.

* * *

The Security Council, in a statement read out by its President, Thomas Richardson (United Kingdom), today expressed deep concern regarding the situation in and around the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs) in Croatia. It said it was concerned about hostilities in the UNPAs, particularly by the Krajina Serbs, and demanded that they cease immediately.

The statement recalled Council resolution 802 (1993), which demanded that all parties comply with cease-fire arrangements, and resolution 847 (1993), which called on all concerned to agree on confidence-building measures.

The Council said it attached the highest importance to the reopening of the Maslenica crossing to civilian traffic, and in that context reaffirmed its support for Croatia's sovereignty and territorial integrity. However, it said that the planned unilateral reopening of the bridge and of Zemunik Airport on 18 July, without an agreement between the parties and in cooperation with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), would jeopardize the objectives of its resolutions. The Council urged the Croatian Government to refrain from that action.

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The Council called on all concerned to cooperate fully with the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and with UNPROFOR to achieve a negotiated settlement to the problem, and to act in a manner conducive to the maintenance of peace. It also called on the parties to assure UNPROFOR's freedom of access to the area surrounding the Maslenica crossing.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has had a discussion with the Italian Foreign Minister regarding the redeployment outside of Mogadishu of Italian forces with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II), according to a United Nations spokesman. He noted that Italy had indicated its overall support for UNOSOM II to the Secretary-General, and said a complete withdrawal of Italian forces was not envisaged.

Yesterday, Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, said the Italian forces had refused to accept certain tasks assigned by the UNOSOM II Force Commander, and expressed the hope that they would be redeployed soon in the interest of unity of command. Mr. Annan said he expected that Italian force Commander Brigadier-General Bruno Loi would be "rotated" back to Italy.

The spokesman underlined the importance of Italy's contributions to United Nations operations -- not just to UNOSOM II -- and said he expected that the situation would be resolved very quickly.

* * *

Rolf Ekeus, Executive Chairman of the Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq, met today in Baghdad with senior Iraqi officials to discuss the country's refusal to allow a Commission team to seal two rocket test sites last weekend. The sites were to have been sealed until monitoring cameras could be installed to ensure that they were not being used for prohibited purposes.

The Security Council had found Iraq's previous refusal to permit the installation of cameras at the sites to be a breach of resolution 687 (1991), which was the basis for the cease-fire after the Gulf War, and a violation of resolutions 707 (1991) and 715 (1991).

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The Commission of Experts set up to examine possible breaches of international humanitarian law and the Geneva Conventions in the former Yugoslavia considered a report concerning Sarajevo at its sixth session in Geneva on 13 and 14 July. The report was delivered orally by William Fenrick, who led a mission to Sarajevo from 24 June to 9 July.

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The Commission decided to continue its efforts to obtain military logistical support for excavations of mass graves at Ovcara and "Sector West", which was in an area in the former Yugoslavia currently under Croat control. If such support were not obtained, a limited investigation without excavations would be undertaken. The Commission also decided to undertake further planning for investigations into systematic sexual assaults, and to prepare for a mission to Dubrovnik to study the destruction of cultural property. It would also discuss Norway's provision of a team of legal and medical experts with that country's Government.

Commission Chairman Frits Kalshoven said an interim report would be submitted to the Secretary-General in early September. The Commission would hold its seventh session in Geneva on 30 and 31 August, and was due to complete its work by the end of December.

* * *

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) today appealed to the Bosnian Croat authorities to allow its delegates access to thousands of Muslim civilians detained in the area of Mostar.

The ICRC reminded the Bosnian Croats of their obligation to treat civilians and detainees humanely. It recalled that under the rules of international humanitarian law accepted by the parties to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, no adverse distinction, such as arbitrary arrest based on ethnic origin, could be made in the treatment of civilians.

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Azerbaijan has accused Armenia of increasing hostility and aggression towards it in defiance of Security Council resolution 822 (1993). In a letter dated 14 July, Armenia appealed to the Council to condemn that aggression and to hold Armenia accountable for its actions.

The letter noted that Armenia had occupied 20 villages in Agdam district and had subjected others in Djebrail district, which bordered on Iran, to heavy shelling. Those incidents demonstrated that Armenia had not renounced its aggressive intentions and was using force to acquire territory, posing a serious threat to security in the region, Azerbaijan argued.

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The United Nations Conference on Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks has been told that new measures are needed for surveillance and control of distant-water fishing fleets intruding on exclusive economic zones.

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Brazil told the Conference yesterday that incursions by such fleets were more widespread than was generally assumed, arguing that the time for irresponsible fishing was over. Sierra Leone made the point that developing countries could not afford effective surveillance of "rapacious" fleets of distant nations, while Tanzania appealed to developed countries to help developing ones to build up surveillance capacity through the transfer of satellite and other technologies.

The Conference is meeting at Headquarters through 30 July to promote implementation of relevant provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

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16 July 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Croatian Government, in agreement with local Serb authorities, to withdraw armed forces from Maslenica Bridge, Zemunik Airport and Peruca Dam, leaving them under UNPROFOR control; parties to intensify efforts for negotiated settlement, starting with cease-fire.

+ UNHCR appeals to international community for resources for humanitarian relief in former Yugoslavia, but says peace needed most of all; warns that "safe areas" of Srebrenica, Zepa and Gorazde might have to be evacuated.

+ Under-Secretary-General Jonah says Secretary-General will not take issue of redeployment of Italian UNOSOM II forces "to the brink"; says Operation has had contact with all Somali factions, including "sub-clans" of General Aidid, with view to political reconciliation.

+ Special Representative for Cambodia says UNTAC mission will end by early September with establishment of new Government; seeks emergency budget assistance for transitional administration.

+ Special Representative Beye suspends humanitarian flights to unsafe areas in Angola after aircraft hit by bullets at M'Banza Congo; awaits UNITA report on incident and mechanism to prevent recurrences.

* * *

The Government of Croatia today agreed to withdraw its armed forces and police from Maslenica Bridge, Zemunik Airport and Peruca Dam, leaving them under the exclusive control of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). In an agreement relating to the implementation of Security Council resolution 802 (1993), the Croatian Government and the local Serb authorities said they would intensify their efforts to reach a negotiated solution to all problems existing between them, starting with a cease-fire agreement to be negotiated by UNPROFOR.

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, welcomed the agreement and expressed the

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hope that it would facilitate further talks which could improve confidence and lead to better relations between the two parties.

Yesterday, a Security Council Presidential statement urged the Croatian Government to refrain from its plan to unilaterally reopen the Maslenica Bridge and the Zemunik Airport on 18 July, in the absence of agreement between the parties in cooperation with UNPROFOR. The Council also called on the parties to cooperate with the Co-Chairmen and with UNPROFOR, and to assure the Force's freedom of access to the area surrounding the Maslenica crossing.

* * *

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata today appealed to the international community to provide the necessary resources for humanitarian relief in the former Yugoslavia. She told the Humanitarian Issues Working Group of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia that UNHCR needed $195 million for the remainder of 1993. The World Food Programme (WFP) needed $100 million, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) needed $39 million and the World Health Organization (WHO) needed $37 million. However, she said humanitarian action could not be a substitute for decisive political action, and what was needed most of all was peace.

Mrs. Ogata said that the international relief effort in Bosnia and Herzegovina had "little access, little mobility and little security". Without unhindered humanitarian access, the situation of the "safe areas" of Srebrenica, Zepa and Gorazde would become even more disastrous. In the present circumstances, those areas were neither safe nor economically viable; evacuation of the civilian populations might soon prove to be the only life-saving option. If the situation in Sarajevo did not improve, that city would die, she went on to say.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will not take the issue of the redeployment of Italian forces with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) "to the brink", James Jonah, Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, said today. He told correspondents that the Secretary-General was in close contact with the Italian Government and hoped that the matter could be resolved amicably.

On Wednesday, Kofi Annan, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, said the Italian forces had refused to accept certain tasks assigned to them by the UNOSOM II Force Commander, and expressed the hope that they would be redeployed soon in the interest of unity of command. Mr. Annan said he expected that Italian force Commander Brigadier-General Bruno Loi would be "rotated" back to Italy.

Mr. Jonah said UNOSOM II had made considerable progress in advancing peace in Somalia, notably in Kismayo and in the north of the country. The Operation was making contact with all political factions, including "sub-clans" of General Mohamed Farah Aidid, in an effort to bring about

political reconciliation. He recalled that before the international intervention, Somalia had been in total chaos, and people had been starving. If the United Nations showed a lack of resolve now, there would be problems with other warlords and the country would revert to chaos. "If we fail in Somalia, where we have now gone to Chapter VII (enforcement provisions of the United Nations Charter) the repercussions would be devastating, not only in Somalia, but throughout the world", he concluded.

Meanwhile, a United Nations spokesman today said there would be a meeting of Member States contributing troops to UNOSOM II at Headquarters on 21 July.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Cambodia, Yasushi Akashi, today said that the work of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) would end in late August or early September with the adoption of a new constitution and the establishment of a new Government. The country was now being governed by a transitional administration composed of all political parties, he told correspondents.

UNTAC was already making withdrawal plans and its 3,600 civilian police were being disengaged, according to Mr. Akashi. One third of the police would be out of Cambodia by the end of July, another third would leave in August, and the remaining third would depart at the expiration of UNTAC's mandate. Military disengagement would begin on 1 August and end by 15 November.

Mr. Akashi said he was in New York for consultations with the Secretary-General and the Security Council in order to secure emergency budget assistance to keep the transitional administration in Cambodia going for the next two months.

* * *

The Secretary-General's Special Representative for Angola, Alioune Blondin Beye, yesterday suspended humanitarian flights to unsafe areas in the country after an aircraft preparing to land at M'Banza Congo was hit by several bullets and forced to return to Luanda. Humanitarian flights had just resumed that day after the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) had guaranteed their security. The suspension will remain in force until the cause of the incident at M'Banza Congo has been established by UNITA and a mechanism put in place to prevent recurrences.

The United Nations Humanitarian Assistance Coordination Unit (UCAH) said in a press release that the incident was a serious violation of international humanitarian law. It expressed grave concern at the plight of the Angolan civilian population, and said the United Nations would spare no effort to provide humanitarian assistance to those in need.

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19 July 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Haiti talks yield six-month political truce aimed at smooth and peaceful transition of power; United Nations and OAS to help set up conciliation commission.

+ Liberian political parties reach agreement on ending civil war, covering political, military, humanitarian and refugee issues; signing to take place at ECOWAS summit in Benin on 24 July.

+ Secretary-General welcomes progress in Western Sahara talks in Laayoune; Special Representative Yaqub-Khan available to assist parties.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says UNPROFOR has been successful in preventive mandate in former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; conclusions cannot yet be drawn on deployment's impact on situation in region.

+ Executive Chairman of Special Commission on disarmament of Iraq leaves Baghdad after "frank and useful" talks on country's refusal to permit sealing of rocket sites; will brief Security Council soon.

+ United Nations sending technical team to Georgia prior to dispatch of 50 military observers as soon as cease-fire implemented.

* Special Representative Howe says Somalia is progressing rapidly towards reconstruction of infrastructure and institutions; pledges that two thirds of UNOSOM II professional staff will be Somalis.

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Haitian political representatives meeting at Headquarters agreed on Friday to a six-month political truce in order to guarantee a smooth and peaceful transition of power in their country. The talks were a follow-up to the Governors Island Agreement concluded on 3 July by President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and Lieutenant-General Raoul Cedras, Commander-in-Chief of the Haitian Armed Forces.

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In agreeing to the truce, the political forces and parliamentary blocs in Haiti undertook to promote and guarantee respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to refrain from any action that might lead to violence or disrupt the transition to democracy. They also undertook not to table motions of no-confidence against the new Government of national concord, insofar as it respected the Constitution and the laws of the Republic, or to obstruct the work of Parliament.

The signatories invited the President to appoint a new Prime Minister as soon as possible, and undertook to ensure that laws necessary for the transition of power were passed on the basis of an emergency procedure. The United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS) agreed to make two experts available to help prepare and implement an act establishing a conciliation commission.

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After a week of talks aimed at ending the civil war in their country, Libera's political parties adopted an agreement on Saturday covering political, military, humanitarian and refugee issues. The agreement will be signed by the leaders of the Interim Government of National Unity of Liberia (IGNU); the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL); and the United Liberation Movement for Democracy of Liberia (ULIMO) at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) summit in Cotonou, Benin on 24 July.

The agreement contains conditions for a cease-fire and the establishment of a civilian transitional Government lasting seven months, after which elections will be held. The agreement also provides for the delivery of humanitarian assistance, and the repatriation and reintegration of refugees under the aegis of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The Geneva talks were co-chaired by Trevor Gordon-Somers, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Liberia; Canaan Banana, Eminent Person of the Organization of African Unity (OAU); and Abass Bundu, Executive Secretary of ECOWAS.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today welcomed the progress made at the beginning of direct talks on Western Sahara in Laayoune, according to a United Nations spokesman. The general atmosphere at the talks was described as good and promising, despite the delicate issues being discussed.

The Secretary-General hoped that the talks would resume within the next few days, the spokesman said. Special Representative Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan had been present at the talks in the capacity of an observer and would continue to be available to the parties to help ensure a successful outcome.

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The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) has been successful so far in its preventive mandate in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, but it it is too early to draw conclusions about the effectiveness of that deployment in the highly volatile situation prevailing in the region, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has told the Security Council in a report dated 13 July.

The Secretary-General welcomed the strengthening of UNPROFOR under Security Council resolution 842 (1993), and said the Force's presence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia supported international efforts to promote peace in the former Yugoslavia. The United States' deployment of troops would strengthen confidence and stability in the Republic and show that the international community would not accept any further widening of the conflict in the region.

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Rolf Ekeus, Executive Chairman of the Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq, has left Baghdad for Bahrain after "frank and useful" talks with senior Iraqi officials, a United Nations spokesman said today. Mr. Ekeus was in Iraq to discuss the country's refusal to allow a Commission team to seal two rocket test sites until monitoring cameras could be installed to ensure that they were not being used for prohibited purposes.

Iraq's position contained positive elements which would permit high-level talks to begin soon in New York with a view to resolving all outstanding issues, the spokesman said. Mr. Ekeus was expected to report to the Security Council soon, possibly on Wednesday.

The Council had found Iraq's previous refusal to permit the installation of cameras at the test sites to be a breach of resolution 687 (1991), which was the basis for the cease-fire after the Gulf War, and a violation of resolutions 707 (1991) and 715 (1991).

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The United Nations is sending a technical team to Georgia as a preliminary to the deployment of 50 military observers as soon as a cease-fire is implemented in the war-torn province of Abkhazia, according to a United Nations spokesman. The team is being led by former Assistant Secretary-General George Sherry of the United States.

The Security Council, in resolution 849 (1993), recently asked the Secretary-General to send his Special Envoy to Abkhazia to help implement the cease-fire agreed to on 14 May by the Georgian Government and Abkhaz separatists, and to prepare for the dispatch of the 50 military observers to the area. In a report on Abkhazia dated 1 July, the Secretary-General said that the situation was deteriorating and that the conflict could threaten the whole Caucasus region.

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Somalia is rapidly moving away from emergency relief operations into the longer-term challenge of rehabilitation and reconstruction of its infrastructure and institutions, Special Representative Jonathan Howe said today in a message to the Somali People.

Admiral Howe said there were signs of recovery and reconstruction in many sectors in Somalia: starvation had largely been eradicated; massive immunization programmes had protected children from disease; livestock exports had increased; schools were steadily reopening; and trade and commerce were growing, with hundreds of commercial ships now docking in Somali ports. He pledged that Somalis would be involved in every part of the reconstruction and rehabilitation plan, and would make up two thirds of the professional staff of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II).

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1438
20 July 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential Statement, expresses concern about Decree of Russian Federation Supreme Soviet that Sevastopol is Russian; says Decree contravenes 1990 Kiev Treaty and United Nations Charter and is without effect.

+ Croatian and Serbian delegations resume negotiations on cease-fire agreement in Vienna; UNPROFOR says meeting provides opportunity for lasting peace in Croatia.

+ Armenian Foreign Minister says peaceful resolution of Nagorno-Karabakh conflict is driving principle of his country's foreign policy; Armenia has no territorial claims on Azerbaijan and no army fighting on its territory.

+ Italian military officer appointed to Office of Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations; will work under Military Adviser on liaison between Headquarters and UNOSOM II.

+ Economic Committee of Economic and Social Council told that 14 million people have AIDS virus, 2.5 million have disease; Social Committee approves 14 drafts dealing with illicit drugs.

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The Security Council, in a statement read out by its President, Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom), today said it shared Ukraine's concern concerning the 9 July Decree of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation that the city of Sevastopol was Russian. In that context, the Council welcomed the Russian Foreign Ministry's position that the Decree departed from the policy of the President and Government of the Russian Federation.

The Council reaffirmed its commitment to the territorial integrity of Ukraine, in accordance with the United Nations Charter. The Council recalled that in a Treaty signed at Kiev on 19 November 1990, the Russian Federation and Ukraine had committed themselves to respect each other's territorial integrity within current frontiers. The Supreme Soviet's Decree was

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For information media—not an official record

incompatible with that commitment, as well as with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, and was without effect, the Council said.

The Council welcomed the efforts of the Presidents and Governments of the Russian Federation and Ukraine to settle any differences between them by peaceful means and urged that they take all steps to avoid tension.

* * *

High-level Croatian and Serbian delegations met today in Vienna to resume negotiations on a bilateral cease-fire agreement. The negotiations, which are expected to end late tomorrow or early Thursday, are being held under the auspices of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and chaired by the Chief Military Observer, Brigadier-General Bo Pellnas.

The negotiations are being conducted on the basis of previous consultations with both sides, in particular the Topusko meeting of 18 May, according to an UNPROFOR press release. They will also build on the agreement signed by Serbian and Croatian representatives on 15 and 16 July, which established conditions for resuming operation of the Maslenica Bridge, Zemunik Airport and Peruca Dam.

The meeting is the best opportunity to reach an agreement that might serve as the basis for a lasting peace in Croatia, UNPROFOR said. An agreement is vital to further talks on matters of urgent concern to both sides, including the restoration of public services so that normal life can resume in the region. Also involved are legal and defence issues essential for mutual confidence-building, with a view to the implementation of Security Council resolution 847 (1993). All such peace-building measures depend on a cease-fire agreement being signed as soon as possible.

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Armenian Foreign Minister Vahan Papazian today said that the driving principles in his country's foreign policy were the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh, the normalization of relations with its neighbours and integration into the international economic system. He told correspondents that Armenia's position on Nagorno-Karabakh had been clear and consistent: the conflict was between the people of the region, who were striving for self-determination, and the Government of Azerbaijan, which was refusing to recognize their legitimate rights and security concerns.

Mr. Papazian stressed that Armenia had no territorial claims on Azerbaijan and had no army fighting in Nagorno-Karabakh or on any Azerbaijani territory. However, Armenia did provide humanitarian assistance to the people of the region, and could not accept a military solution to the conflict which would mean the annihilation or deportation of the Armenian population.

Armenia fully supported Security Council resolution 822 (1993), which called for an end to hostilities in the region, and regarded the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) "nine plus one" initiative as a real

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opportunity to establish peace, Mr. Papazian continued. Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh had agreed to the terms of the initiative, but the recent domestic turmoil in Azerbaijan raised serious questions about the commitment of the new leaders in Baku to the peace process. He went on to say that Armenia firmly believed that an unconditional cease-fire, to be followed by negotiations, was the only way to bring lasting peace to the region.

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Lieutenant-Colonel Salvatore Ioccono Quarantino, an Italian military officer, is to join the Office of the Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, according to a United Nations spokesman. Lieutenant-Colonel Quarantino will work under the Military Adviser, Major-General Maurice Baril, on liaison between Headquarters and the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II).

The spokesman said the timing of the appointment was "not unrelated to current events", but noted that it was not unusual for officers from troop-contributing countries to spend some time at Headquarters with the Military Adviser. Lieutenant-Colonel Quarantino's appointment would probably last a minimum of six months.

Last week, Under-Secretary-General Kofi Annan said the Italian contingent serving with UNOSOM II had refused to accept certain tasks assigned to it, and expressed the hope that it would soon be redeployed in the interest of unity of command. Mr. Annan also said he expected that Italian force Commander Brigadier-General Bruno Loi would be "rotated" back to Italy. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has since maintained close contact with the Italian Government to resolve the matter.

* * *

Some 14 million people have been infected by the virus that causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), and 2.5 million have gone on to develop the disease, Dr. Michael Merson, Executive Director of the Global Programme on AIDS of the World Health Organization (WHO), told the Economic Committee of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva on Friday. Most infections occurred in sub-Saharan Africa, but the fastest increase in the past year had been in Latin America and in South and South-East Asia, he said.

Heterosexual transmission was on the rise, and five out of 11 newly infected adults were women, Dr. Merson continued. By the year 2000 there would be 30 to 40 million people infected with the virus and 90 per cent of them would be in developing countries. The representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) noted that since the Council had discussed AIDS last year, 2 million people had been infected in developing countries, most of whom were responsible for the support of others.

Meanwhile, the Economic and Social Council's Social Committee approved 14 draft resolutions dealing with narcotic drugs. Under one draft, the Council would endorse the view of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)

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that the non-medical use of such drugs should not be legalized. Other drafts dealt with such issues as reducing demand for drugs and implementing the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1439
21 July 1993

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General appeals for end to armed activities on Tajik-Afghan border; says United Nations will help parties find peaceful solution to problems. Meanwhile, Russian Federation appeals to Afghanistan to prevent attacks on Russian border troops in Tajikistan.

+ Co-Chairmen of Yugoslavia Conference invite Bosnian President and Bosnian Croat and Serb leaders to Geneva to negotiate end to war in Bosnia and Herzegovina; say outstanding issues have been clarified and parties should meet in continuous session until settlement reached.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs complains of insufficient funding for relief and reconstruction in Somalia; warns that UNOSOM II military actions in Mogadishu could lead to "marginalization" of humanitarian work elsewhere in country.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations says UNOSOM II has not departed from its mandate by becoming military operation; security is sine qua non for achieving humanitarian and political objectives.

+ Special Committee against Apartheid appeals to Conservative Party and Inkatha Freedom Party not to leave multiparty talks; says talks could lay foundation for new constitution for democratic and non-racial South Africa.

* * *

Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appealed to the parties to the conflict on the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan to exercise restraint, to end all armed activities and to seek a political solution. In a statement issued today by a United Nations spokesman, the Secretary-General emphasized that he and his Special Envoy were ready to assist the parties in their efforts to find a peaceful solution to their problems.

Meanwhile, the Russian Federation has issued a strong protest to Afghanistan in connection with an attack on Russian border troops in

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For information media--not an official record

Tajikistan on 13 July. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 19 July, the Russian Federation said the attack had been launched from Afghan territory by irregular forces of the Tajik opposition and Afghan Mujahidin, and appealed urgently to Afghanistan to take all necessary measures to prevent such actions in the future.

Russian troops in Tajikistan would use "the entire arsenal of military means available" to protect the Tajik-Afghan frontier, according to the letter. The Russian Federation would also provide Tajikistan with any assistance it might require, including military assistance, in accordance with a Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation and Mutual Assistance signed by the two countries and on the basis of the right to collective defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter. The letter went on to say that the international community must adopt a responsible approach to those forces which violated the norms of international law, infringed Tajikistan's territorial integrity and sovereignty, and threatened the stability and security of the entire central Asian region.

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The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, have invited Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban, and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to Geneva to negotiate a settlement to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Co-Chairmen said in a letter to the three leaders that the outstanding issues had been clarified in recent weeks and that they should meet in continuous session until a settlement was reached.

The Presidents of Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro had already said they would participate in the negotiations when that would be helpful, the Co-Chairmen noted, adding that the presence of the collective Bosnian Presidency would be beneficial. The armed forces of all parties should exercise maximum restraint in order to ensure the best atmosphere for the negotiations. The letter reminded the parties of their commitment to ensure the availability of electricity and water in all parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and unhindered access for humanitarian convoys.

The Co-Chairmen said that if fighting resumed or humanitarian relief were impeded at any time, they would say so publicly and make it clear who was responsible for jeopardizing the negotiations. "We look forward to seeing you at the end of the week", the letter concluded.

* * *

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Jan Eliasson today said that the amount of funding made available for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in Somalia was disappointingly low, even though those efforts were central to the United Nations mission in the country. To date, less than 15 per cent of funding needed for the 1993 Relief and Rehabilitation Programme -- $166 million -- had been received, while some $1.5 billion would be spent on military operations over the year, he told the Economic and Social

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Council in Geneva. In other words, ten dollars was being spent on security in Somalia for every dollar spent on humanitarian assistance.

Mr. Eliasson warned that if sufficient funding were not received, the military operation might be perceived as an end in itself, rather than as a means of ensuring security for rehabilitation and reconstruction. The recent escalation of violence could not be allowed to wreck that work, and vicious attacks on United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) peace-keepers could not be disregarded. However, he continued, there were genuine concerns that continued military actions in Mogadishu could result in the marginalization of the humanitarian dimension of the Organization's mission in the country.

* * *

The United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) has not detracted from its original mandate by becoming a military operation, and is continuing to pursue its humanitarian and political objectives, Under-Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations Kofi Annan told a UNOSOM II Troop Contributors Meeting today. He said the process of disarmament in Somalia would, when necessary, be pursued forcibly in order to create a secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and the rebuilding of political institutions.

Mr. Annan stressed that a secure environment was a sine qua non for the achievement of the humanitarian and political objectives of UNOSOM II's mandate. To ignore threats to security was to invite disaster, and possibly a return to the days when the country was in total chaos. The "distraction" caused by General Mohamed Farah Aidid and his faction could not change the Operation's mandate -- only the Security Council could do so, he said.

While recent events in Mogadishu had drawn worldwide attention, UNOSOM II had continued to deliver humanitarian assistance throughout most of Somalia when and where security conditions permitted, Mr. Annan went on to say. Meanwhile, the Operation had managed to stem the flow of refugees into neighbouring countries almost completely. He recalled that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) had warned that that success might be compromised unless more troops were deployed in the border area at Doble. UNOSOM II was also continuing to rebuild Somalia's political institutions at the local level and had recently launched broad outreach programmes to keep its mission clear in the minds of Somalis.

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The Special Committee against Apartheid has said it is deeply concerned at recent indications by South Africa's Conservative Party and the Inkatha Freedom Party that they might suspend their participation in multiparty negotiations until certain demands were met. Special Committee Chairman Ibrahim A. Gambari (Nigeria) said yesterday in a statement that active participation by all parties was crucial to building on the consensus already achieved on essential constitutional principles. The critical issues to be taken up soon by the multiparty talks would, when resolved, probably lay the

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foundation for a new constitution for a democratic and non-racial South Africa.

The Special Committee appealed to the Conservative Party and the Inkatha Freedom Party to remain within the framework of the multiparty talks and to strive for a workable political settlement. Multiparty negotiations remained the best way to resolve differences, especially by preventing political violence, and to achieve a constitutional solution reflecting the aspirations of all South Africans, the statement stressed.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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22 July 1993

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina to present proposal envisaging federal structure for Republic, with regions not exclusively based on ethnicity, to Special Representative Stoltenberg; suggests that Secretary-General ask "friends" to aid peace process.

+ Croatian and Serbian representatives agree to adjourn Vienna cease-fire negotiations for further consultations; substantial progress achieved, but some matters still to be resolved.

+ Executive Chairman of Special Commission says team will leave for Iraq tomorrow to install monitoring cameras at two rocket test sites; high-level technical talks to begin in New York as soon as possible.

+ Secretary-General urges parties to conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh to end hostilities and to support work of CSCE's Minsk Group for cease-fire and political solution.

+ UNITA, in report to Special Representative for Angola, accepts responsibility for 15 July attack on WFP aircraft; says it will try to prevent recurrence of "unfortunate accident" and will cooperate with United Nations humanitarian efforts.

+ Secretary-General expresses readiness to continue support for Guatemalan peace negotiations within framework agreeable to parties; United Nations has participated in process since 1990.

* * *

The Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina will soon forward to Special Representative Thorvald Stoltenberg a proposal for negotiations on the Republic's future envisaging a federal structure comprising several regions not exclusively based on ethnic principles. In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 20 July, the Presidency commended Mr. Stoltenberg for his efforts in seeking an equitable peace for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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The letter recalled that the concept of "friends of the Secretary-General" had proved extremely useful in negotiations for a peace agreement in El Salvador and a return to democracy in Haiti. It went on to suggest that the Secretary-General ask a group of countries to support Special Representative Stoltenberg's efforts to bring peace to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

* * *

After three days of negotiations on a cease-fire agreement, senior Croatian and Serbian representatives have agreed to adjourn their meeting in Vienna in order to undertake urgent consultations with their respective authorities, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said substantial progress had been made, although some matters remained to be resolved, and it was expected that the meeting would reconvene as soon as possible.

The negotiations were held under the auspices of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and chaired by the Chief Military Observer, Brigadier-General Bo Pellnas.

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Rolf Ekeus, Executive Chairman of the Special Commission on the disarmament of Iraq, has said a technical team will leave for Iraq tomorrow to install monitoring cameras at two rocket test sites there. Mr. Ekeus told correspondents that during his recent visit to Baghdad, Iraq had agreed to permit the installation of the cameras on an interim basis and to hold high-level technical talks with the Commission in New York as soon as possible.

The forthcoming talks would deal with the nature and implementation of ongoing monitoring and verification of Iraq's capabilities, including the long-term solution to the question of the cameras, and other outstanding issues, according to Mr. Ekeus. Meanwhile, the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq had given explicit assurances that the Commission would be forewarned of any test firings so that it could observe them.

Mr. Ekeus stressed that the Commission was still suspicious of Iraq's intentions, although the recent discussions in Baghdad had been constructive. "It's only a first step, but we feel at least a process can start," he said.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed deep concern over reports of renewed conflict in and around Nagorno-Karabakh. In a statement issued today, he urged all parties to exercise restraint, to end hostilities and to fully support the Minsk Group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which was trying to develop plans for a cease-fire and a political solution to the outstanding problems.

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The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) has accepted full responsibility for an incident on 15 July in which a World Food Programme (WFP) aircraft was hit by several bullets as it was preparing to land at M'Banza Congo. In an explanatory report to the Secretary-General's Special Representative Alioune Blondin Beye, UNITA said that the "unfortunate accident" had resulted from a failure of communications, and undertook to do everything possible to prevent a recurrence.

UNITA had also reiterated its commitment to cooperate with the United Nations in the provision of humanitarian assistance throughout Angola, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said that there were no immediate plans for the resumption of humanitarian flights, which had been suspended after the incident, but added that he hoped to have an announcement on that issue very soon.

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The United Nations has been participating in the Guatemalan peace process since 1990 in response to requests made by the parties to the conflict and set out in the Oslo Agreement of March 1990 and the Mexico Agreement of April 1991, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was ready to continue his support for the negotiation process within a framework agreeable to the parties.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1441
23 July 1993

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement last night, condemns Bosnian Serb offensive on Mount Igman aimed at Sarajevo and demands end to attacks on city; calls on parties to negotiate settlement in Geneva under Co-Chairmen of Yugoslavia Conference.

+ Co-Chairmen of Yugoslavia Conference hopeful, but not optimistic, that Bosnia and Herzegovina peace talks will begin on Sunday; insist that parties exercise restraint and create suitable conditions for talks.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, recommends that UNIFIL's mandate be extended by six months to 31 January 1994; says operations have been hindered by increased hostilities, citing continuing Israeli occupation of parts of southern Lebanon.

+ Economic and Social Council endorses proposals for action on consequences of 1986 Chernobyl disaster; Economic Committee approves draft resolutions on proposed fixed transport link between Europe and Africa and on industrialization in Africa.

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The Security Council last night condemned the Bosnian Serb offensive on Mount Igman aimed at further isolating Sarajevo, and demanded an immediate end to all attacks on the city. In a statement read out by its President, Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom), the Council reaffirmed the unacceptability of ethnic cleansing, forceful acquisition of territory or any dissolution of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Council demanded an immediate end to all violations of international humanitarian law and to the disruption of public utilities by the Bosnian Serbs. The Council emphasized that it would keep open all options, "none of which is prejudged or excluded from consideration".

In support of the efforts of the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, the Council renewed its demand for an end

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to hostilities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It called on the parties to negotiate in earnest in Geneva, under the auspices of the Co-Chairmen, with a view to a just settlement on the basis of the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the Republic. The Council also reaffirmed its resolution 824 (1993), which declared Sarajevo a safe area, and resolution 836 (1993), which expanded the mandate of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to protect such areas.

* * *

The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, are hopeful, but "not quite optimistic", that talks to settle the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina will begin on Sunday, according to a United Nations spokesman. He said the Co-Chairmen were were still working on the basis that the parties would arrive for the talks in Geneva at noon that day.

The Co-Chairmen had rescheduled the talks for Sunday because of the situation on the ground in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to a statement issued yesterday. The Co-Chairmen had written to the parties insisting that they honour their commitments to exercise restraint and to create suitable conditions for talks.

The Co-Chairmen had also welcomed reports that road-blocks which had prevented a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) convoy from reaching Gorazde had been lifted, as well as reports that obstacles on routes in western Bosnia and Herzegovina had been removed.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for another six months until 31 January 1994. He said in a report dated 20 July that UNIFIL's contribution to stability in southern Lebanon and its protection of the population there were important, although the Force had not made visible progress in implementing its mandate in the last six months.

UNIFIL had been prevented from implementing its mandate by increased hostilities in its area of operations, according to the Secretary-General. The Force had been severely hampered by firing by the armed elements there and by the Israel Defence Forces and the so-called "South Lebanon Army". The hostilities highlighted Israel's continuing occupation of parts of southern Lebanon, despite the Security Council's repeated calls for its withdrawal.

The Secretary-General drew attention to the serious shortfall in funding for UNIFIL, and appealed to all Member States to pay assessments promptly and in full and to clear remaining arrears. Unpaid assessments now totaled some $229 million, he noted.

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The Economic and Social Council has endorsed proposals for action to deal with the consequences of the 1986 Chernobyl accident, as recommended by Jan Eliasson, the Coordinator of International Cooperation dealing with the disaster. Mr. Eliasson told the Council in Geneva yesterday that a new approach based on solid facts and sober assessments had been adopted. It called for identifying the most urgent needs; taking stock of ongoing programmes; determining the time-frames for action; and identifying funding sources.

The Coordinator said that the three States concerned -- Belarus, the Russian Federation and Ukraine -- had agreed that health, socio-pyschological and economic rehabilitation, and agriculture were priority areas for action. He urged the international community to strengthen efforts to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, not only out of solidarity but also out of enlightened self-interest.

Meanwhile, the Council's Economic Committee approved two draft resolutions on the proposed permanent transport link between Africa and Europe through the Strait of Gibraltar and on industrialization in Africa. By the first draft, the Council would invite scientific and technical institutions to take part in a special meeting on the proposed link, and would call on States concerned to cooperate with Morocco and Spain in carrying out studies for the project. The second draft called for a dialogue between industrialized and developing countries in the context of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1442
26 July 1993

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General expresses alarm at escalation of violence between Israel and Lebanon; Force Commander of UNIFIL to contact both sides to urge maximum restraint; ICRC appeals to parties to respect international humanitarian law and to spare civilians.

+ Co-Chairmen of Yugoslavia Conference expect Bosnia and Herzegovina peace talks to begin at noon tomorrow in Geneva; will meet informally with Bosnian President tonight.

+ Force Commander of UNPROFOR says preparatory steps are being taken, in coordination with NATO, to provide air support for implementation of mandate to protect safe areas in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ UNFICYP protests after twelve personnel are injured by demonstrators violating Cyprus Buffer Zone from south; says police authorities did not cooperate in maintaining Zone's integrity.

+ CSCE Council Chairman says refusal of Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to allow continuation of CSCE missions in Kosovo, Sandzak and Vojvodina increases threat to peace in region.

+ UNOSOM II to hold second informal consultation with donors in Nairobi tomorrow.

+ International Court of Justice forms special seven-member Chamber for Environmental Matters to deal with developments in environmental law.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed alarm and concern at the escalation of violence between Israel and Lebanon, after receiving a report from the Force Commander of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) on the situation in the area. In a statement issued today, the Secretary-General deplored Israeli attacks against Lebanon, in which many civilians had been killed and wounded. He equally deplored rocket attacks against northern Israel which had killed and wounded several civilians.

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The Secretary-General said the Force Commander of UNIFIL had been instructed to contact both sides, and to urge them to exercise maximum restraint.

In a related development, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) today appealed to all parties involved in military operations in Lebanon and Israel to respect international humanitarian law, and in particular to spare the civilian population and civilian property. ICRC said it was deeply concerned about the latest developments and their consequences in humanitarian terms in both Lebanon and northern Israel.

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The Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, expect that talks to settle the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina will begin around noon tomorrow, according to a United Nations spokesman.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic was in Geneva and would meet informally with the Co-Chairmen this evening, the spokesman said. The other participants in the talks were expected to arrive in the city tomorrow. The Co-Chairmen would meet with the individual delegations before the talks began in plenary.

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General Jean Cot, Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), has said preparatory steps are currently being taken to implement Security Council resolution 836 (1993). That resolution authorizes UNPROFOR to use force to protect "safe areas" in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Responding to questions about developments in the Close Air Support Operation, General Cot said on Friday that UNPROFOR, in coordination with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), was preparing to ensure that its mandate could be carried out. Measures to achieve a viable level of air power had begun and technical elements were being deployed on the ground to support them.

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Twelve members of the United Nations Peace-keeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) were injured yesterday when some 250 demonstrators forcibly entered the United Nations-controlled Buffer Zone from the south, according to a United Nations spokesman. Demonstrators had approached the northern perimeter of the Zone at three locations, and at one they had thrown stones and Molotov cocktails at Turkish Cypriot personnel temporarily deployed a short distance forward of their cease-fire line. UNFICYP had informed the demonstrators beforehand that the routes they wished to take were unacceptable, and had also made its position clear to the Government authorities, including the Cyprus Police.

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The spokesman said that there could have been very serious consequences had it not been for the conscientious response on the part of UNFICYP and restraint on the Turkish side. Maintenance of the integrity of the Buffer Zone was the responsibility of UNFICYP alone, but required the cooperation of the public and of the police authorities; such cooperation had been lacking yesterday. UNFICYP would protest all the unauthorized incursions into the Buffer Zone as well as the attacks on its personnel and property, he stressed.

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Margaretha af Ugglas, Foreign Minister of Sweden and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), has expressed deep regret at the refusal of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) to allow CSCE missions in Kosovo, Sandzak and Vojvodina to continue their activities. In a letter transmitted to the Security Council by Sweden's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, she said the refusal increased the threat to peace and security in the region, noting that the value of the missions had been recognized by all concerned, including the Government of the Federal Republic.

The letter called on the Federal Republic to change its course and to live up to the norms and principles it had accepted as a CSCE participating State. Meanwhile, the CSCE would continue to keep the situation in Kosovo, Sandzak and Vojvodina under review.

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The United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) will hold a second informal consultation with donors on 27 July in Nairobi, according to a United Nations spokesman. Representatives from 41 donors, 21 international non-governmental organizations and 20 United Nations agencies are expected to attend.

Three working groups at the consultation are expected to address the following issues: resources for the Somalia relief and rehabilitation programme; roles and responsibilities of the partners involved in the Somali mission; and planning for the future.

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The International Court of Justice has decided to form a special seven-member Chamber for Environmental Matters in view of recent developments in the field of environmental law. Two of the eleven cases currently on the Court's docket have important implications for international law on matters relating to the environment. The Court had previously considered forming a chamber to deal with environmental matters, but had chosen instead to deal with environmental cases through the constitution of an ad hoc chamber rather than through the creation of a standing special chamber.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

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DH/1443
27 July 1993

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General condemns "deliberate" Bosnian Serb attack on French UNPROFOR troops in Sarajevo on Sunday; calls on parties in Bosnia and Herzegovina to honour cease-fire agreement and to negotiate settlement in Geneva.

+ Talks to end war in Bosnia and Herzegovina begin in Geneva; Presidents of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, and leaders of Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Croats participate.

+ Croatia calls on Security Council to stop attacks by Muslim forces on Croats in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Nepalese UNIFIL headquarters bombed by Israeli aircraft; three personnel slightly injured; Force Commander protests incident and urges Israeli military to exercise maximum restraint.

+ Economic Committee, concluding current session, recommends draft resolutions and draft decisions for action by Economic and Social Council on topics ranging from natural resources to global strategies for combating AIDS.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has condemned an attack by Bosnian Serbs on French troops of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Sarajevo on Sunday. In a statement issued yesterday, the Secretary-General said the UNPROFOR troops had been subjected to artillery, mortar and tank fire; none had been harmed, but one armoured personnel carrier had been destroyed and four had been badly damaged.

UNPROFOR vehicles were painted white and were clearly marked, and there could have been no mistake as to their identity, the Secretary-General pointed out. UNPROFOR had established that the attack was deliberate, notwithstanding allegations to the contrary by the Bosnian Serbs. An attack on UNPROFOR, which had been deployed, inter alia, to support the humanitarian efforts of the international community, was an attack on the entire people of Bosnia and

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Herzegovina who depended on the uninterrupted delivery of humanitarian assistance, he said.

The Secretary-General demanded that such actions against UNPROFOR and against the population of Sarajevo cease immediately, and called on all parties to honour the cease-fire agreement which had been due to take effect throughout the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina on Sunday. He urged the parties to resolve matters at the negotiating table, with the help of the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

* * *

Talks to end the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina began today in Geneva and were "proceeding and progressing", although a plenary meeting had not yet been held, according to a United Nations spokesman. Participating at the talks were: Alija Izetbegovic, President of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs; Mate Boban, leader of the Bosnian Croats; Franjo Tudjman, President of Croatia; Slobodan Milosevic, President of Serbia; and Moomir Bulatovic, President of Montenegro.

Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, had already met with the Serbian and Bosnian delegations, as well as with President Bulatovic and the Bosnian Presidency, the spokesman said. The Co-Chairmen had also met with the Special Envoys of the United States and the Russian Federation, who were participating informally in the proceedings.

* * *

Croatia has called on the Security Council to take measures to stop attacks by Muslim forces against Croat-inhabited regions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, stating that Croats had suffered most from "ethnic cleansing" in the country. In a letter to the Council dated 23 July, Croatia's Permanent Representative to the United Nations called attention to the "tremendous humanitarian catastrophe" which had befallen the Bosnian Croats. He said that on many occasions they had not received sufficient attention from the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) or from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"As long as the Bosnian Croats continue to find themselves in such severe conditions, especially in central Bosnia, and as long as the Security Council is unwilling to address their plight, my Government will have difficulty in successfully influencing events which may lead to a peaceful settlement for the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina," the Permanent Representative said.

* * *

The headquarters of the Nepalese battalion serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was hit by at least two bombs

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dropped by Israeli aircraft today, according to a United Nations spokesman. Three Nepalese personnel were slightly injured and several buildings and vehicles were destroyed in the attack.

The Force Commander of UNIFIL visited the headquarters and then contacted the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) liaison unit to protest the incident in the strongest terms, the spokesman said. The Force Commander, on behalf of the Secretary-General, urged the IDF to exercise maximum restraint in their actions, and said a written protest would be delivered when the incident had been fully investigated.

* * *

The Economic Committee of the Economic and Social Council concluded its work for the current session yesterday by approving several draft resolutions and draft decisions on topics ranging from natural resources to global strategies for combating acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). All the measures were approved without a vote, except for a draft resolution by which the Council would deplore the establishment of Israeli settlements in Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, and would assert the right of the original populations to water and other resources there. That proposal was approved in a roll-call vote of 40 in favour to 1 against (United States), with 3 abstentions (Japan, Poland and the Russian Federation).

Among the items which are expected to be acted on by the Council this week is a draft resolution which would recommend that the restructuring of United Nations activities in the economic, social and related fields include steps to strengthen the effectiveness of the regional economic commissions. Another draft would call for strengthening efforts to aid the spread of new technologies to help the industrialization of developing countries.

The draft resolution relating to AIDS would support the decision of the World Health Organization (WHO) to study for two years the feasibility of a United Nations programme on the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and AIDS. It would also ask the Secretary-General to include the outcome of the study in his next biennial report on progress in the implementation of a global strategy for combating and preventing AIDS.

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WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council decides unanimously to extend UNIFIL mandate for six months to 31 January 1994; calls on all parties to cooperate fully with Force.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, expresses concern at violence in southern Lebanon; reaffirms its commitment to country's sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity; says States should not threaten or use force against other States.

+ Secretary-General deplores Israeli bombing campaign in southern Lebanon; says attempt to displace civilian population may complicate Middle East peace process.

+ Israel, in letter to Security Council, says it has taken military action against terrorist bases in Lebanon in self-defence; says it is committed to Middle East peace process.

+ General Assembly admits Andorra as 184th Member of United Nations by acclamation.

+ Special Envoy for Haiti condemns attack on Senator Thomas Dupiton in Port-au-Prince; says incident shows urgent need for return of constitutional order.

+ Geneva talks to end war in Bosnia and Herzegovina make "steady progress"; Co-Chairmen of Yugoslavia Conference hold joint meeting with heads of delegations.

+ UN High Commissioner for Refugees, in address to Economic and Social Council, stresses importance of right to asylum; says concerted international action is needed to tackle refugee problem.

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The Security Council today decided unanimously to extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for a further period of six months until 31 January 1994. It took that action by adopting resolution 852 (1993).

The Council reiterated its strong support for the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries. The Council re-emphasized UNIFIL's terms of reference and general guidelines as approved by resolution 425 (1978), and called on all parties concerned to cooperate fully with the Force for the full implementation of its mandate.

The Council also asked the Secretary-General to continue consultations with the Government of Lebanon and other parties directly concerned with the implementation of resolution 853 (1993) and to report to it on the results.

* * *

The Security Council, in a statement read out by its President, Sir David Hannay (United Kingdom), today reaffirmed its commitment to the full sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries. The Council asserted that any State should refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations.

Referring to its earlier extension of the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the Council stressed the urgent need for implementation of resolution 425 (1978), which approved the Force's terms of reference and general guidelines, in all its aspects. The Council reiterated its full support for the Taif Agreement and for the continued efforts of the Lebanese Government to consolidate peace, national unity and security in the country. The Council also commended the Lebanese Government for its successful efforts to extend its authority in the south of the country in full coordination with UNIFIL.

The Council went on to express its concern at the continuing violence in southern Lebanon and its regret over the loss of civilian life, and urged all parties to exercise restraint.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed alarm that a major objective of the Israeli bombing campaign in Southern Lebanon was aimed at displacing the civilian population from villages in the area. In a statement issued today, he said that given the evolution of the situation in Lebanon, as well as the historic background of the Middle East conflict, it was deplorable that any Government would consciously adopt policies that would lead to the creation of new flows of refugees and displaced persons.

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The Secretary-General said he was concerned that a continuation of the operation might further complicate the peace process, whose successful outcome was in the interest of all the parties.

* * *

Israel has said it has been carrying out military operations against bases belonging to Hezbollah and other terrorist organizations in Lebanon because those organizations have lately intensified their efforts to kill Israelis and to undermine the Middle East peace process. In a letter to the Security Council dated 26 July, Israel said it was exercising its legitimate right of self-defence so as to restore adequate security along its northern border.

Israel remained fully committed to the peace process, the letter stated. Military action had been taken only as a last resort to defend Israeli citizens and also to defend the peace process.

* * *

The General Assembly today decided by acclamation to admit the Principality of Andorra as a new Member State of the United Nations. The Assembly meeting was followed immediately by a flag-raising ceremony at Headquarters. Andorra's admission brings total membership of the Organization to 184.

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The attempt last night on the life of Haitian Senator Thomas Dupiton in Port-au-Prince was condemned today by Dante Caputo, the Special Envoy for Haiti of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States. The Senator was lightly injured in the attack, but an innocent bystander was killed.

In a statement issued through a spokesman, Mr. Caputo rejected all acts of violence, irrespective of their origin, and said the incident once again demonstrated the urgent need for the return of constitutional order to Haiti. He also expressed his condolences to the victim's relatives.

* * *

Steady progress is being made at talks in Geneva to end the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to a United Nations spokesman. The talks, which began yesterday, are being chaired by Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

The Co-Chairmen met today with President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban and Croatian President Franjo Tudjman. The Co-Chairmen also met with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, and later had a joint meeting with the heads of all the delegations at the talks.

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The right to seek and enjoy asylum must be upheld more strongly than ever, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Sadako Ogata told the Economic and Social Council on Monday. She said it was disturbing to see some States adopting measures to prevent potential refugees from seeking asylum or to reject and return them without a proper hearing.

Introducing the UNHCR's annual report, Mrs. Ogata stressed that never before had concerted action by the international community been so critical for the resolution of conflicts or so necessary for forging a humanitarian response. UNHCR increasingly had to provide protection and assistance to refugees and displaced persons in situations of acute crisis or open conflict, whether in Africa, the former Soviet Union and the Balkans, or parts of Asia. In almost every case, the refugees were returning to countries which had been devasted by war, areas which were heavily mined or situations where the national reconciliation process was precarious and security fragile, she said.

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United Nations

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council condemns seizure of Agdam and other recently occupied areas in Azerbaijan; demands immediate end to fighting and complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces.

+ Secretary-General again deplores Israeli attacks in southern Lebanon; calls for immediate cease-fire and end to policy of forcible displacement of civilian population; UNRWA says attacks have had disastrous consequences for Palestinian refugees.

+ President of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosnian Serb and Bosnian Croat leaders, at peace talks in Geneva, order immediate cease-fire; military commanders to meet daily to resolve possible disputes.

+ Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to United Nations says his Government is being pressured by Co-Chairmen of Yugoslavia Conference to accept partition.

+ Chairman of the Security Council Committee dealing with sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia announces rules and regulations for vessels delivering humanitarian supplies to its ports.

+ President Aristide, in letter to Special Envoy Dante Caputo, asks for technical and financial assistance for Haiti, in accordance with the Governors Island Agreement.

+ Economic and Social Council recommends that General Assembly proclaim third decade to combat racism, adopt declaration on eliminating violence against women, and meet to launch 1994 Year of the Family.

+ Japan contributes $4 million to support interim administration in Cambodia.

* * *

The Security Council today condemned the seizure of the district of Agdam and of all other recently occupied areas of Azerbaijan, and demanded an

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immediate end to all hostilities and the complete and unconditional withdrawal of occupying forces from those areas. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 853 (1993).

The Council called on the parties concerned to reach durable cease-fire arrangements, and expressed grave concern at the disruptive effect of the escalation of hostilities on the efforts of the Minsk Group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to achieve a peaceful solution to the conflict. The Council urged the parties to refrain from any action that would obstruct such a solution, and to pursue negotiations within the Minsk Group, as well as directly.

The Council urged the Government of Armenia to continue to exert its influence to achieve compliance by the Armenians of the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan with relevant resolutions, and acceptance of the Minsk Group's proposals. The Council also urged States not to supply arms which might lead to an intensification of the conflict or the continued occupation of territory.

The Council asked the Secretary-General and relevant international agencies to provide urgent humanitarian aid to the affected civilian population and to help displaced persons to return home, and called once again for unimpeded access for humanitarian relief efforts in the region. The Council also asked the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairman-in-Office of the CSCE and the Chairman of the Minsk Group, to continue to report to it on the situation.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has expressed grave concern at the continuing deterioration of the situation in southern Lebanon, which had caused the destruction of homes and villages and led to the exodus of hundreds of thousands of residents from the area. For the second time in two days, he deplored the Israeli attacks, noting that they had continued despite previous appeals for restraint.

The Secretary-General called for an immediate cease-fire and for the cessation of all fighting. The policy of deliberately forcing people to abandon their homes must be stopped forthwith and those who had been displaced should be allowed to return in peace and safety, he said.

In a related development, the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Ilter Türkmen, today said the Israeli attacks were having disastrous consequences for Palestinian refugees living in southern Lebanon. Ten refugees had been killed since 25 July, while thousands had fled their shelters, according to UNRWA.

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President Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic and Bosnian Croat leader Mate Boban today ordered their military commanders to immediately implement a cease-fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to a United Nations spokesman. The orders were issued in the course of a meeting of heads of delegations at the peace talks in Geneva. The talks, which began on Tuesday, are being chaired by Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen, Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia.

In order to reinforce the cease-fire order, it was decided that the commanders of the three military forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina should meet in Sarajevo today under the auspices of the United Nations, the spokesman said. The commanders would also meet each day while the peace talks continued in order to discuss the causes of any conflict and to correct the situation. They would also discuss what modifications were needed to the Military Agreement contained in the Vance/Owen Plan.

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The Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina is being pressured by the Co-Chairmen of the International Conference on the Former Yugoslavia to accept partitioning of the country, Bosnia and Herzegovina's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Muhamed Sacirbey, told correspondents in New York today. He alleged that the Co-Chairmen had forsaken the principles of the London Conference which were to have been the cornerstones of a just and durable peace, and which had been espoused by the Security Council, the United Nations Charter and the European Community.

Mr. Sacirbey said "abnormal delays" in deploying ground and air forces in support of the United Nations mandate in Bosnia and Herzegovina only served the interest of the aggressor forces, so that the current peace talks in Geneva were being conducted in "an environment of genocide".

* * *

The rules and regulations for potential shippers wishing to use any maritime ports within the territorial sea of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) were announced today by the Chairman of the Security Council Committee concerning sanctions against the Federal Republic, Ronaldo Mota Sardenburg. According to the statement issued today, the rules are intended to ensure the unimpeded delivery of shipments to that country of medical or food supplies, or other items of essential humanitarian need approved by the Committee, while complying with the relevant decisions of the Security Council and the Committee's Revised Consolidated Guidelines for granting exceptions to commercial vessels entering the proscribed area.

The rules include the requirement that any State or international humanitarian agency involved in such a delivery provide the Committee with justification for exceptional authorization; provide particulars of all cargo

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on the vessel entering the territorial sea of the Federal Republic, whether destined for that country or not; and that they inform the Committee of the proposed inspection and monitoring regimes entailed in entering that area.

* * *

Dante Caputo, the Special Envoy for Haiti of the Secretaries-General of the United Nations and the Organization of American States (OAS), has received a letter from President Jean-Bertrand Aristide requesting technical and financial assistance for Haiti. In a statement issued yesterday, Mr. Caputo said the President had also sought assistance for the administrative reform of the judiciary system, for modernization of the armed forces and for the creation of a new police force. Those requests were made in accordance with the Governors Island Agreement of 3 July.

Mr. Caputo went on to say that such assistance would be provided following the plans outlined by the Constitutional Government of Haiti in consultations with the United Nations and the OAS Secretaries-General, with the help of the international community and individual donor nations.

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The Economic and Social Council has recommended that the General Assembly, at its forty-eighth session, proclaim a third decade to combat racism and racial discrimination, adopt a declaration on the elimination of violence against women, and devote a plenary meeting to launching the 1994 International Year of the Family. Those recommendations were contained in the more than 50 texts adopted by the Council in Geneva on Tuesday.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to develop comprehensive policy measures for preventing sexual harassment in the Secretariat, prepare a world ministerial conference on organized transnational crime in 1994 and continue refining the draft world programme of action for youth towards the year 2000. The Secretary-General was also urged to promote equal opportunities for disabled persons in the United Nations system. In the only action taken by a vote, the Council reaffirmed that for Palestinian women, equality and self-reliance could only be achieved through the ending of Israeli occupation and the attainment by the Palestinian people of their inalienable rights.

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Japan has announced a contribution of $4 million in support of the interim administration in Cambodia, according to a United Nations spokesman, who said that such contributions were for a "very essential purpose". The administration, which comprises all Cambodian political parties, will be replaced by a new Government in late August or early September.

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